



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

BOC: *Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Dr. Jason Macomson
District 3 Commissioner Ryan Swails
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester*

Media: *Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader*

Staff: *County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Elaine Evans
County Attorney Bubba Samuels*

Item 1: **Call meeting to order** – *Chairman Bridges called the May regular meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance.*

Item 2: **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – *Dr. Macomson led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.*

Item 3: **Approval of Minutes**

*April 1, 2019 public hearing
April 1, 2019 regular meeting
April 30, 2019 work session*

*Chairman Bridges said there were three meetings in April and the minutes were sent to the Commissioners for review. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Swails made the motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The minutes were approved by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Dr. Macomson and Chairman Bridges.*

Item 4: **Items for discussion**

A. Public Comment

Dr. Claude Black came forward to speak about the proposed Inspections Program. He said he believes the citizens of the County need more information on it. There are several things that bother Dr. Black concerning the Inspections Program proposal, one is



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the lack of agricultural buildings being addressed and the corporate headquarters for the company being located in Paris. Dr. Black stated this should be placed on a ballot and voted on by the citizens instead of being decided on by a Board.

B. Chandler Place Drive

*Mrs. Thomas said in 2014 when the citizens of Chandler Place Drive came before the Board of Commissioners to ask for road maintenance, they were unable to provide all the necessary documents. Since that time the residents of Chandler Place Drive have been able to gather all the required documentation along with a turnaround spot. Mrs. Thomas gave the staff recommendation to accept Chandler Place Drive. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept Chandler Place Drive as a County road. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to accept from ditch to ditch. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.*

C. GRP/Lender agreement form

*Mrs. Thomas said the GRP/Lender document was proposed by the lenders during the Georgia Renewable Power Plant loan and construction process. This agreement was previously presented but was not approved by the Commission Board although it was approved by the lenders. It was not approved because some of the language needed to be changed to meet the needs of the County. Mrs. Thomas asked for approval of the GRP/Lender agreement and authorization for the Chairman to execute the document. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the GRP/Lender agreement. Commissioner Wester made the motion to accept the agreement. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Swails seconded the agreement. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Swails and Commissioner Wester.*

D. SPLOST IV excess funds purchase

The fuel tank located at the Sheriff's Department is in need of a new Gasboy, a single suction hose dispenser with a gallon meter. Mrs. Thomas said the cost for the Gasboy is \$9,985. There are \$5,800 of excess SPLOST IV funds which Mrs. Thomas requested be authorized for use toward the Gasboy purchase. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the purchase for the Sheriff's Department. Dr. Macomson made the motion to use the excess SPLOST IV funds for the purchase of the Gasboy. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. Commissioner Franklin questioned if all County vehicles use the fuel at the Sheriff's Department. Mrs. Thomas said all vehicles make use of it when available. County employees use WEX cards when they are out of the County. Usage provided by the Sheriff's Office is given monthly to expense to the various departments budget. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of



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hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.

Mrs. Thomas requested approval to pay a BSN Sports invoice for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$2,128. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the BSN Sports invoice. Commissioner Wester made the motion to approve the BSN Sports invoice payment. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester and Commissioner Swails.

E. Library Proclamation

Chairman Bridges said the library system in the County is important and needs to be recognized. Mrs. Thomas said the Library Proclamation was presented to the Commissioners after the Library Week took place. The Commission Board is recognizing Library Week retroactively. Mrs. Thomas read the last paragraph of the Library Proclamation, "Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Franklin County Board of Commissioners recognized National Library Week, April 7-13, 2019. I encourage all residents to visit both the Lavonia-Carnegie and Royston branches of Franklin County Libraries over the course of the year and explore what's new at your library and engage with your librarians. Because of you, Libraries Transform".

Mrs. Thomas gave her recommendation to approve the Library Proclamation. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the Library Proclamation. Commissioner Swails made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges said the citizens of Franklin County are fortunate to have these two libraries. He then asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Swails, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin and Chairman Bridges.

F. LMIG emergency funds

Chairman Bridges said the heavy rains last month set the County back. He asked Mrs. Thomas to explain the LMIG emergency funds item. Mrs. Thomas said Franklin County is seeking the State's assistance for two roads, Rocky Ford Road and Banks Road. Because of the uncertainty of available grant funds from GEMA and FEMA, the most viable option for the County is to apply for LMIG emergency funds. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commission Board to give the authorization to submit the paperwork for the LMIG emergency funds for Rocky Ford Road and Banks Road. The County will have a 30% match which will come out of SPLOST V funds. The estimated cost to repair both roads is approximately \$152,000. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to apply for the LMIG emergency funds. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to apply for the LMIG emergency funds. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded



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the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Swails, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Wester.

G. FY19 Budget Modification – property insurance reimbursement

Mrs. Thomas said there is a totaled vehicle that needs to be replaced immediately. The replacement will be paid out of the General Fund. An insurance reimbursement of \$26,000 was received. Mrs. Thomas asked for a budget modification to record the \$26,000 as revenue and increase the Sheriff's vehicle budget by the same amount to replace the vehicle. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to modify the Sheriff's budget for the vehicle reimbursement. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Commissioner Wester questioned if the insurance reimbursement amount will cover the vehicle purchase amount. Mrs. Thomas said the amount should cover the vehicle amount plus part of the extra package. The Sheriff's Department is using \$11,000 from their asset forfeiture account for part of the purchase. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Chairman Bridges, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Franklin.

H. Board appointments

Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the Board appointments. He requested each appointment be discussed and voted on individually. Mrs. Thomas said the Board of Commissioners advertised and received applications. These applications were submitted to the County Clerk and then given to the Commissioners for review. Applications are kept on file for one year and reviewed as needed. Franklin County will accept applications at any time during the year for board appointments and will keep them on file for future considerations.

The current Franklin County appointee on the **Avita Board** is Angela Whidby. This term will expire on June 30, 2019. The Avita Board of Directors have requested for Mrs. Whidby to be reappointed to a term beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2022. Mrs. Whidby submitted a new application and expressed her desire to continue serving on the Avita Board. Mrs. Thomas stated Angela Whidby was the sole applicant for this appointment. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to reappoint Angela Whidby to the Avita Board. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to reappoint Mrs. Whidby. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Dr. Macomson and Chairman Bridges.

The **Department of Family and Children Services** recommended the reappoint of Marie Loftis to their Board. The term for Ms. Loftis will expire on June 30, 2019. The DFCS Director Bryant Rogowski stated Ms. Loftis is a faithful and productive



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member of the DFCS Board and would like to continue her service. The DFCS Board has to follow State of Georgia requirements for their board members and Ms. Loftis as a former employee meets them. Two applications were received with Ms. Loftis meeting all the requirements. Mrs. Thomas asked for a motion to reappoint Marie Loftis to the DFCS Board for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2024. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to reappoint Marie Loftis to the DFCS Board. Commissioner Swails made the motion to reappoint Ms. Loftis. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.

Franklin County has two appointees for the **Joint Development Authority**. Mrs. Thomas said only one application has been received. A request has been made to the Industrial Building Authority (IBA) for their recommendation because of their role in working together with the JDA to encourage economic development. The request from Mrs. Thomas is to keep the application period open for the JDA and not make the appointment until more applications are received. Applications and/or recommendations from the IBA will be forwarded to the Commission Board.

Mrs. Thomas said the Franklin County Board of Commissioners appoints two of the seven members to the **Franklin-Hart Airport Authority**. The requirement to serve is to be a resident of Franklin County. There are no age requirements or term limits and a member may serve on the Airport Authority until a successor is appointed. The terms are for four years. Mrs. Thomas said the current term is for the period beginning July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2020. Research related to the historical appointments along with the terms was provided to the Commissioners. Mrs. Thomas said information and clarification was also provided to the Commissioners for the 2015 appointment following an original member resignation. Because the Airport Authority members may continue to serve until a successor is named the Commission Board is not obligated to appoint a new member at this time.

Chairman Bridges said a new appointment would be made to run for approximately one year. This issue slid along and the Commission Board is making corrections to the problem. Chairman Bridges stated this will be moved on and asked Commissioner Wester to give a recommendation. Commissioner Wester made the motion to appoint Eddie Addison to the Franklin-Hart Airport Authority. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Dr. Macomson asked for clarification of who the two Franklin County appointments are and which position Mr. Addison will replace. Commissioner Wester replied that as of now, Franklin County Board of Commissioners does not have a second appointment because that position was appointed by the IBA in error. Chairman Bridges said to do one appointment tonight and look at the other one and decide what the proper procedure is. He asked Commissioner Wester to clarify which position the appointment of Mr. Addison is for. Commissioner Wester stated it has to be the position currently held by Harris Little since there is not another position to appoint to. Chairman Bridges asked for the term date to be included



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in the motion. Commissioner Wester clarified the motion to appoint Eddie Addison to the position currently held by Harris Little to begin on June 1, 2019 and end on June 30, 2020.

*Commissioner Swails stated concerning the appointment of Bill Flowers he was appointed incorrectly by the IBA. Mrs. Thomas said the position was mistakenly appointed by the IBA instead of the Commission Board. Mr. Flowers is serving faithfully under the assumption he was appointed appropriately. The term Mr. Flowers is currently occupying ended on June 30, 2016 and he is continuing to serve. Mrs. Thomas said if the Commission Board decides to act on this position it will either be to clarify Mr. Flowers as the appointee or replace him. Dr. Macomson clarified Mr. Flowers is serving in the second Board of Commissioners spot although he was appointed by the IBA. Commissioner Wester stated the Commissioners never voted on Bill Flowers therefore he would need to be appointed by a vote. Mrs. Thomas said her opinion is he would need to be voted on or vote on someone else to fill this term. Chairman Bridges asked the Commissioners to study this before asking for a vote. He then asked for a show of hands to appoint Eddie Addison to the Airport Authority. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Commissioner Franklin and Dr. Macomson.*

I. Inspections Program

Chairman Bridges said the Inspections Program will not be approved tonight. He asked County Attorney Bubba Samuels to go over this item. Mr. Samuels said historically the Board of Commissioners have had two readings before approvals. This is done to put on record that this is being considered by the County. The draft ordinance is usually introduced and is looked at by staff and Commissioners and the public. After the review a second draft is usually done for the second reading approval. Mr. Samuels said this is the first reading giving staff authorization to work on the ordinance for the Inspections Program. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the first reading. Dr. Macomson made the motion to approve the first reading for the Inspections Program. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion.

*Dr. Macomson clarified that citations and fines would come through the County Manager. Mrs. Thomas said clarity is needed to define the building official who will be staff. The fines and citations will come through the building official. The services will be contracted out but the authority will stay with the building official. Mrs. Thomas said the ultimate goal is for compliance not to fine people or bring them to Magistrate Court. Commissioner Wester stated he would like to have a public meeting with the inspections company before the second reading takes place to answer questions and give information. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands to move forward with the Inspections Program. The motion passed by four (4) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Dr. Macomson. Commissioner Franklin did not participate in the vote.*

J. Insurance update



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Chairman Bridges stated insurance decisions are hard but he is proud the County is able to offer it to the employees. He asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the County's insurance. Mrs. Thomas said she met with the broker this past Friday and received an update. The claims data for this past year is not much better than it has been historically. The County tends to run right at 100% or just over on the loss ratio. Because of the loss ratio the initial renewal from United HealthCare came in at a 21% increase. There are two factors that go into the rate increase from UHC, the claims data from the County and the claims data from all the people insured by them. Because of the combined factors, UHC is not budging on the renewal rate.

The large companies who provide coverage in our area are Aetna, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Cigna, Humana and United HealthCare. Mrs. Thomas said of these companies Aetna refused to give a quote because they gave a quote last year. Humana is not a good option for our area because of our rural setting. Cigna and Blue Cross/Blue Shield have provided a competitive renewal. Mrs. Thomas said she hopes to get the renewal down to 7% but it will require a change in companies. The broker is still working on the proposals. A mid-May meeting will probably be needed to discuss the insurance options and make the decision so open enrollment can take place prior to the July 1 plan start date. Mrs. Thomas said her goal is to keep the plan the same so the employees are not hit with higher deductibles. Both the HSA and Buy-up plans will still be offered. The health insurance will also be offered to employees at no cost for single coverage.

K. Announcements

Mrs. Thomas said the seed (sewage from another plant) was brought in to begin operations at the sewer plant. The tank is filling and it should not be long before the sewer plant is in operation.

Commissioner Franklin expressed his appreciation to the Road Department for taking care of the rough places in the roads and picking up where they left off.

Chairman Bridges said the Road Department provides an update to the Commissioners every month. There were lots of roads worked in April, four pages full. The unemployment rate in Franklin County is under 4%. Chairman Bridges said the low unemployment rate for Franklin County is a blessing.

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wester made the motion to adjourn. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson and Chairman Bridges. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.*



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Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2019

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner

Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk